

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
~~an access point of a network,~~ collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals at an access point of a network,
wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point; and
wherein the statistical data comprises information about data provided from a server accessible to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals;
providing to the server the statistical data;
~~at the server,~~ determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point at the server,
wherein the determining is based, at least in part, on the provided statistical data.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ comprising operating the access point is operated by with a network service provider.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the access point comprises a wireless access point (WAP).
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein determining a the payment ~~to provide to an account~~ associated with ~~an~~ the operator of the access point comprises determining a payment for an account associated with an operator of the WAP.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the WAP comprises a base station.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein determining a the payment ~~to provide to an account~~ associated with ~~an~~ the operator of the access point comprises determining a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an internetwork.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the internetwork comprises the Internet.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising information about the data provided from a server to the to the plurality of user terminals comprises providing information about data packets received at the access point from a the server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a cellular telephone.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a laptop computer.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a personal digital assistant.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a mobile telephone.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a voice over internet protocol mobile telephone.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a two way pager.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless user terminal comprises a wireless modulator/demodulator coupled to an electronic computing device.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein~~ comprising operating the server comprises operated by with a content service provider.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the information about data provided from a server to the to the plurality of user terminals comprises~~ comprising providing a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server to the plurality of user terminals.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from a server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal comprises~~ comprising providing a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, ~~wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal comprises~~ comprising providing a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server accessible via the network and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the wireless user terminal.

23. – 76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a network access point capable of collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals,

wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by use of the access point; and

wherein the statistical data comprises information about data provided from a server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals;

a server capable of determining a payment associated with an account associated with an operator of the access point, ~~wherein the determining is based,~~ responsive at least in part, on the ~~provided~~ statistical data.

78. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network access point is operated by a network service provider.

79. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network access point comprises a wireless access point (WAP).

80. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 79, wherein ~~determining a payment to provide to an account associated with an operator of the access point comprises determining the server is configured to determine~~ a payment for an account associated with an operator of the ~~WAR~~ WAP.

81. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 79, wherein the WAP comprises a base station.

82. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~27~~ 81, wherein ~~determining a payment to provide to an account associated with an operator of the access point comprises determining the server is configured to determine~~ a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base station.

83. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~27~~ 81, wherein the base station comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

84. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN).

85. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the network comprises an internetwork.

86. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein information about data provided from a the server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal.

87. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the information about data provided from a server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server.

88. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal.

89. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 77, wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the wireless user terminal.

90. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that if executed by a computing device performs a method as follows:

~~at an access point of a network,~~ collecting statistical data for a plurality of user terminals
at an access point of a network,

wherein the plurality of user terminals are capable of accessing the network by
use of the access point₅₁; and

wherein the statistical data comprises information about data provided from a
server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals;

providing to the server the statistical data;

~~at the server,~~ determining a payment associated with an account associated with an
operator of the access point at the server,

wherein the determining is based, at least in part, on the provided statistical data.

91. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the access point is
operated by a network service provider.

92. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the access point
comprises a wireless access point (WAP).

93. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~38~~ 92, wherein the WAP comprises a
base station.

94. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~38~~ 93, wherein the instructions, if
further executed, determine a payment for an account associated with an operator of the base
station.

95. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~38~~ 93, wherein the base station
comprises a substantially IEEE standard 802.11 compliant base station.

96. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36~~ 90, wherein the network comprises a
wireless local area network (WLAN).

97. (Currently amended) The article of claim 36 90, wherein information about data provided from a the server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal.

98. (Currently amended) The article of claim 36 90, wherein the information about data provided from a server to the ~~to the~~ plurality of user terminals comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server.

99. (Currently amended) The article of claim 43 97, wherein the information about data packets received at the access point from a the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to at least one wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal.

100. (Currently amended) The article of claim 43 99, wherein the count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point to the wireless user terminal comprises a count of bytes of data received at the access point from the server ~~accessible via the network~~ and forwarded by the access point using a Media Access Control address associated with the wireless user terminal.

101. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to an amount paid for the access point.

102. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to a subsidy provided for the access point.

103. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to an overpayment for the access point.

104. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point includes:

operating the network with an internet service provider; and
determining a payment for an internet service provider responsive to the statistical data.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising:

determining a portion of the payment for the internet service provider as the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point responsive to the statistical data.

106. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

authenticating accesses of the user terminals to the network by an authenticator; and
determining a payment from the content service provider to the authenticator for the authenticating;

wherein determining the payment associated with the account associated with the operator of the access point includes determining a portion of the payment from the content service provider to the authenticator for the operator of the access point in response to the statistical data.